



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



February 1999

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property Crops	Character of Storm
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WISCONSIN, Southeast

WIZ051-063-066-069 Fond Du Lac - Dane - Milwaukee - Rock

11	1200CST 1700CST			0	0			Excessive Heat
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South winds pulled extremely warm, moist air north into southern Wisconsin ahead of a deep low pressure and strong cold front. The city of Milwaukee in Milwaukee County established a new all-time record maximum temperature of 68 degree, breaking the old record of 65 set back in 1976. A new daily record maximum was also established, with the old record of 60 set back in 1932. The city of Madison in Dane County established a new daily record maximum temperature of 61 degrees, breaking the old one being 54 set back in 1932. This narrowly missed the all-time February maximum of 63 set way back in 1882. Janesville in Rock County recorded a new daily maximum temperature of 66 degrees, breaking the old one of 51 set back in 1977. Up in Fond du Lac, a new all-time record maximum of 62 was recorded, breaking the old one of 58 set back in 1996 and 1932.

Lafayette County								
Shullsburg	11	1240CST		0	0	3K		Thunderstorm Wind
Iowa County								
2 SW Mineral Pt	11	1243CST		0	0			Hail (1.75)
Sauk County								
Merrimac	11	1331CST		0	0			Hail (1.00)
Marquette County								
Montello	11	1345CST		0	0			Hail (0.75)
Dane County								
Madison	11	1350CST 1530CST		0	0	1K		Urban/Sml Stream Fld
Dane County								
Belleville to Cottage Grove	11	1355CST 1410CST		0	0	10K		Thunderstorm Wind (G56)
Columbia County								
Lodi	11	1400CST		0	0			Hail (0.75)
Green County								
Albany to Brodhead	11	1407CST		0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind
Green Lake County								
1 NE Princeton	11	1407CST		0	0			Hail (0.75)
Rock County								
Janesville	11	1417CST		0	0			Hail (0.75)
Jefferson County								
Lake Mills to Watertown	11	1423CST 1430CST		0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind (G56)
Dodge County								
3 N Beaver Dam	11	1430CST		0	0	10K		Thunderstorm Wind
Milwaukee County								
Milwaukee	11	1430CST 1700CST		0	0	1K		Urban/Sml Stream Fld
Rock County								
Janesville	11	1430CST		0	0	1K		Lightning
Dodge County								
Juneau	11	1440CST		0	0			Hail (0.75)
Walworth County								
5 ESE Whitewater	11	1440CST		0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind



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<u>WISCONSIN, Southeast</u>							
Jefferson County 1 S Palmyra	11	1445CST			0 0	1K	Thunderstorm Wind
Walworth County Walworth	11	1445CST			0 0	5K	Thunderstorm Wind
Waukesha County Hartland to Elm Grove	11	1445CST 1630CST			0 0	1K	Urban/Sml Stream Fld
Waukesha County Hartland to Brookfield	11	1454CST 1505CST			0 0	3K	Thunderstorm Wind (G55)
Fond Du Lac County Fond Du Lac to Taycheedah	11	1457CST 1505CST			0 0	4K	Thunderstorm Wind (G56)
Racine County Rochester to Racine	11	1510CST 1525CST			0 1	2K	Thunderstorm Wind
Milwaukee County Milwaukee	11	1515CST 1525CST			0 3	25K	Thunderstorm Wind (G61)

Severe thunderstorms, ahead and along a strong cold front, struck parts of southcentral and southeast Wisconsin during the afternoon hours. The characteristic of the severe storms, extremely rare for February, transformed from large hail to damaging winds as clusters changed into short lines of storms moving rapidly east/northeast at 43 knots (50 mph), or more. All-time record February warmth (temperatures in the 60s) along with surface dewpoints in the 50s fueled the storms which also dumped rainfall amounts of 1/2 to 1 inch in 15 to 30 minutes. Thanks to the intense rainfall rate and still frozen ground, urban flooding was reported in Dane (a mudslide was reported on the UW-Madison campus), Waukesha, and Milwaukee counties. Hundreds of trees were uprooted. Probably 200 to 300 power poles toppled over due to powerful gusts to around 61 knots (70 mph), or were brought down by felled trees. In southcentral Wisconsin, 16,000 customers were without electrical power at one time or another, while about 4,000 customers in southeast Wisconsin lost power.

Near Shullsburg (Lafayette Co.), the winds destroyed a corn crib and scattered its remains across State Hwy 11. Also near Shullsburg, a large tree was pushed over on top of a pickup truck. Large trees were also uprooted in the Albany to Brodhead area of Green County. In Dane County, a wind damage swath extended from near Belleville northeast through southwest Madison to the east side of Madison around the Beltline. Trees and powerlines were pushed over in this area. The roof of a building on a golf driving range was ripped off, and sheet metal was torn off the siding of a couple other businesses in the Paoli area. East of Madison near Cottage Grove, a semi was blown over, allowing 100 gallons of fuel to spill on I-94.

In Janesville (Rock Co.), lightning struck a school building's chimney, resulting in damage, but luckily no fire. In Jefferson County, wind damage was noted from Lake Mills to Watertown. Besides many toppled trees, several construction sites in Watertown reported damage to scaffolding. Tree damage was also noted just south of Palmyra. In Walworth County, the powerful winds knocked over 2 construction trailers and 3 semi's near the village of Walworth. Large trees were also pushed over by the winds east/southeast of Whitwater.

The southern part of the city of Milwaukee in Milwaukee County was raked by powerful winds. Many trees and power poles were pushed over. A van was blown over, injuring two people. Also in Milwaukee, a woman was injured when the winds knocked her down. It was the nearly the same story in Cudahy which reported damage to several homes, businesses, and vehicles. In Racine County, the winds toppled trees and power lines in a swath from Rochester east to the city of Racine. In the city of Racine, a man was injured when a large tree branch knocked him out of his wheel chair.

Wind damage in Waukesha County occurred in the area from Hartland to Pewaukee. Besides damage to trees and powerline, a shed in Pewaukee was destroyed. The shed's wind-driven debris then damaged a nearby car. Further northwest in Dodge County, the powerful winds near Beaver Dam ripped off a barn's roof. In Fond du Lac county, the winds toppled trees and power poles/lines from Fond du Lac northeast to Taycheedah.



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